

## Letter from Eliza Symonds Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, March 2, 1879

Tutelo Heights, Brantford, Ont., Canada, March 2nd, 79. (No envelope) My dear Aleck,

I intended my letter of congratulation to have reached you on the right day, but was unable to have it so, beside being uncertain if you were at home or at Boston. Your telegram to Papa yesterday however notified your locality. God bless you my dear boy, and give you a long series of the anniversaries of your birth which was then as now a source of rejoicing to us. As your years progress, so may your happiness and usefulness increase. We are delighted to know that you are getting over your troubles with telephone opponents. What an expense you must be at for law business, and such repeated travelling from place to place. I am anxious that you should put by as much as possible now in order that you may retire all the sooner, for such constant over-work cannot be sustained without injury to your constitution. Telephone matters are brightening very much in Canada, but as a few lines from Papa are to accompany this, I shall leave him to relate particulars. Tell Mabel I have been trying to obtain some inkling from Mary as to when she will be likely to start for Washington, but obtain no other answer than "I will write myself". Tell Mabel also there is no fear of Mary being dull with so many places of interest in and about Washington to examine. She is very unlike most young 2 ladies, having no taste for what is called gaiety. I hope Mabel won't be shocked when I tell her that Mary like myself is an anti-train-ist, and I suppose all the most stylish modists in Washington could not move her to wear one. She is anticipating her visit very keenly. I understand you cannot find room for a piano, but I should think there would be plenty for a cottage or cabinet one, in the back drawingroom opposite the fireplace. I suppose dear little Elsie's cough was not whoopingcough or we should have heard more about it. She will be getting very interesting now. I forget if she was vaccinated before we left your house. There have been a few cases of smallpox in Brantford, and fearing it might become as prevalent there as in Montreal, quite a lot

## Library of Congress

of vaccination is going on amongst the inhabitants. All the Wye family and I believe the Ballacheys. Amongst others our boy who has had such a dreadful arm as to be unable for work during the last three weeks, and is now suffering from a boil on the nape of his neck, caused most likely by the disturbance to his system by the vaccination. Our girl too has been laid up with a scalded foot which would not heal, and in consequence has gone home. We have another and older one who so far promises well. I am sorry that Mabel has had to change her servants, but under the circumstances it was better to make a clean sweep and have new all through. I hope Mary Horne is better. She should not allow herself to be worried, remembering that servants in America are much more independent and impatient of control than English ones. This I believe is particularly the case with colored people. However if either for health or any other reason, you want a change for Mary remember that our house is always a home for her. Do you remember the youngest Miss Philip? She died two days ago of heart disease. Uncle David has kept us well supplied with papers regarding Col. Horne. I think the Government should take especial care of Mrs. Horne and family. When Admiral Boser died at Balaklava his widow was given the "good service pension" and free apartments in Hampton Court Palace with the title of "Lady". Papa's cold is a great deal better but not thoroughly away yet. Kind regards to Mrs. Hubbard and family. With dear love to yourself and Mabel, besides a host of kisses to the darling baby.

Ever your affectionate Mather, E. G. Bell.